

N E W S

Nothing is worth more than this day

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L E T T E R

Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



Vol. IX No. IX

September 1, 1999

Work Shops and Conferences

September 19-22, 1999, Basic and Advanced Pretreatment Training, Portland, OR. The courses are sponsored by EPA and WEF. For information, contact Edward Gonzalez at 703/684-2400 ext. 7401 or egonzalez@wef.org.

September 20-21, 1999, Last Pretreatment Course for '99, Portland, OR. The Basic and Advanced Pretreatment Training is sponsored by EPA and the WEF. For information: Edward Gonzalez WEF Technical Programs at 703/684-2400, ext. 7401 or egonzalez@wef.org.

September 27-30, 1999, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Pocatello, ID. This is the annual conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians. For additional information call ATNI at 503/241-0070.

October 7-10, 1999, National Conference of SACNAS, Portland, OR. This is the National Conference for the Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science. For information call SACNAS at 831/459-0170.

October 24, 1999, Training for Tribal Solid Waste Coordinators, Reno, NV. (SWANA) The Solid Waste Association Of North America will be providing this training. For information call Kathleen Kilbane at 301/585-2898.

November 1-5, 1999, "Converging Paths: Working Together to Meet Environmental Needs" Doubletree Inn, Southcenter, Tukwila, WA. (16500 Southcenter Parkway, Phone (206)246-8220.) Discuss and hear about environmental issues that are of concern to tribes. Hosted by Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians and sponsored by EPA. For more information call Evelyn Holtzendorf at 206/553-4011 or email holtzendorf.evelyn@epa.gov.

Low Flow

Each year the average American uses about 27,000 gallons of water around the home, according to the 1998 Residential Water Use Summary commissioned by American Water works Association (AWWA). According to the study, each person in a single-family home uses 74 gallons per day.

Water suppliers in the U.S. already process nearly 34 billion gallons of water daily. As the population continues to

grow, saving more water could offset the demands created by that growth. This in turn can help communities avoid the expenses of building new water supply and treatment facilities.

By employing water conservation measures like low-flow fixtures and regularly checking for and repairing leaks, daily use can be cut by about 30%, down to 51.9 gallons per person. A household can cut water usage for showers by 2.1 gallons per person per day by installing low-flow shower nozzles. This amounts to more than 766 gallons per person per year. Low flow fixtures installed in homes constructed in 1998 will save an estimated 44 million gallons of water a day. This amounts to a national annual savings of about \$33.6 million each year, according to AWWA.

During the growing season, as much as 65% of a household's total water is used outdoors. According to nationally known gardener Paul James, outdoor water conservation can be as simple as watering earlier in the day and using sprinklers that distribute droplets of water instead of mists. Water sensors for

automatic sprinkler systems prevent watering during rainfall events or when the soil is still wet.

Collecting rainwater from down spouts for watering gardens later and mulching gardens also reduce outdoor water use. Conserving water for car washing means using a bucket and a sponge to soap the car, instead of leaving the water running.

"By installing low-flow water fixtures and taking other steps to conserve water, consumers do a favor for themselves," said Jack Hoffbuhr, AWWA executive director.

Other conservation measures include running the dishwasher only when it is full. In clothes washers with adjustable levels, small loads can be run on low. Routinely checking plumbing, and immediately repairing leaking faucets, toilets and other leaks can save almost 5 gallons of water per person per day.

Public education programs can inform users on water saving measures and provide opportunities to learn how to identify and to fix leaks.

Combined, these measures may save

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each household only \$100 per year. Magnified system wide, the saving can be significant for operators in terms of reduced chemicals usage and energy saved, the AWWA said. (Water World)

Superfund

On July 23, 1999 EPA announced the Superfund Redevelopment Initiative - a nationally coordinated effort that seeks to facilitate the return of superfund sites to productive use. Through the initiative, EPA is establishing pilot programs to help local governments participate in the cleanup and reuse of Superfund sites. EPA will provide financial or technical assistance to eligible local governments through cooperative agreements for assessments, planning, facilitation, and public outreach relating to the decision about a site's future land use. Ten pilot cities have been selected so far, and by the end of FY 2000, EPA expects to choose 50 pilot sites on a competitive basis. EPA will put notice of grant availability in the Federal Register by the end of the summer. Also as part of EPA's Initiative, the International City/County Management association (ICMA) has established the Superfund Peer Match Program for local governments. Through this program, communities who have met with success in addressing Superfund sites are paired with less experienced communities who can benefit from field-tested Superfund strategies. IMCA plans to initiate a round of peer matches during the federal FY 2000. For information on participating in the Superfund Peer Match Program, call David Borak of ICMA at 202/962-3506.

Grant Writing

The EPA **Grant Writing Tutorial** walks users through the grant-writing process and provides tips on writing more competitive grants. In addition to a mock grant-writing activity, the program includes detailed information and tips on writing a grant proposal, how to complete a grant application package, program-specific information on three EPA grant programs, grant-writing resources and contacts; and more. To view or download the program, click:

<http://www.epa.gov/seahome/grants.html>. You will also find this on the Tribal Program's Webpage: <http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/>, then click on **267 Tribes** and the button titled "Grants."

Fluorescent Bulbs

On June 28, 1999 EPA announced a new rule that seeks to reduce the dumping of fluorescent bulbs in landfills and to encourage their recycling. Under the new rule, fluorescent bulbs will be treated as a "universal waste." Universal wastes are usually items commonly thrown into the trash by households and small businesses such as batteries, thermostats and obsolete pesticides. Prior to the new rule, many fluorescent bulbs were full regulated as hazardous waste because they frequently contained mercury, and sometimes lead. By reclassifying the bulbs as universal waste, which follow less stringent storage and transportation rules, EPA feels recycling will become easier and cheaper. The rule targets businesses and government agencies that buy large quantities of fluorescent bulbs. For a copy of the new rule, call the RCRA Hotline at 800/424-9346.

Next Steps Air Rules Project

In August, Region 10 air quality staff consulted with staff from 14 Pacific NW tribes on the draft model air quality rules. During September and early October, air staff will write a first draft of the proposed rulemaking, including the revised rules. At the Regional Tribal Environmental Conference in November, there will be working sessions to discuss the changes made, the expected impact of the rules, and the schedule for proposing the regulations. Additional requests for changes to the draft rules will also be discussed. If you would like an advance copy of the draft proposal, please contact Mary Bell Austin at 206/553-1059 or by e-mail at: austin.marybell@epamail.epa.gov

PPG Reminder

Is your Tribe considering participating in a **Performance Partnership Grant (PPG)**? Do you think it's a good idea?

Do you think it isn't as good as it could be? Do you have better ideas? Whatever your Tribe(s) think(s) of the PPG rule send in your comments by September 7, 1999. EPA needs to know what Tribes think of this program. You can view it on the Tribal Program's Website:

<http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/> then click on **267 Tribes** and the button "**What's New.**" If you need a copy of the rule, please contact your regional tribal program office, or call **Evelyn Holtzendorf** at (206)553-4011, email: holtzendorf.evelyn@epa.gov.

Hazardous Waste Treatment

A new report is available that contains information on treatment technologies being used at more than 900 hazardous waste sites around the United States. The report, Treatment Technologies for Site Cleanup Annual Status Report - Ninth Edition, includes a wide range of treatment technologies, such as control technologies and innovative groundwater treatment technologies, being used at Superfund sites, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act corrective actions sites, and departments of defense and Energy sites. The report is designed to improve communication between technology users and those who are considering treatment technologies to clean up sites. The report is complemented by a database, found on the Internet at: <http://www.epareachit.org>, that allows users to obtain information on companies offering remedial services. For a copy of the report (document #EPA-542-R99-001), call the EPA National Service Center for environmental Publications at 800/490-9198.

Nonpoint Pollution

Nonpoint source pollution is controlled and produced by U. S. federal agencies, according to a GAO report in February to the U.S. House of Representatives' Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

The report states federal agencies reported spending \$3 billion annually between 1994 and 1998 on 35 nonpoint source pollution programs. It further states "the federal government manages

or authorizes, or issues permits or licenses for, a variety of activities that result in nonpoint source pollution.”

“Federal activities are of particular significance throughout the 11 western United States, where the federal government owns at least 50% of the land area in about 60% of the region’s watersheds. The five states GAO contacted - Arizona, California, Oregon, Utah and Colorado - reported many water quality problems resulting from one or more of these federal activities,” the report states.

EPA estimates, managing the three major causes of nonpoint source pollution - agriculture, silviculture, and animal-feeding operations - requires about \$9.4 billion annually. The report (*Water Quality: Federal Role in Addressing and Contributing to Nonpoint Source Pollution*) can be downloaded at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/newtitle.htm>.

CW-SRF Monies

Nationwide, Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CW-SRF) issues approximately \$3 billion in loans annually. The CW-SRF can fund virtually any type or category of polluted runoff that is included in a state-approved non-point source management plan, including:

- ☐Septic system improvements and replacements.
- ☐Storm water management facilities, including sediment basins and constructed wetlands;
- ☐Rehabilitation or streambanks, riparian corridors and buffers;
- ☐Implementing agricultural best management practices to prevent and reduce runoff, including conservation tillage equipment and soil erosion controls; or
- ☐Manure storage facilities.

For more information, contact The Clean Water State Revolving Fund Branch, USEPA at 202/260-7359 or on the web: www.epa.gov/owm.

Future Drinking Water Forums

The EPA and a variety of associations and water-related groups are participating in a Futures Forum that is

examining the future of safe drinking water for the next 25 years.

The Drinking Water Futures forum was created by the 25th Anniversary Steering Committee to evaluate the challenges facing the nation in ensuring a safe supply of drinking water, and to develop a plan to meet these challenges. Many drinking water-related associations will be hosting meetings throughout the country to discuss the future of drinking water protection.

On December 16 they will hold a Futures Forum to announce conclusions reached from the year-long discussions and an agenda for action. The question being discussed by the participants: How should we ensure safe drinking water in 25 years?

This all-encompassing question will be broken into seven sub-questions relating to: Treatment Technologies; Source water Quality and Quantity; Sensitive Sub-populations; Cost; Small Systems; Unserved Populations; and Research.

For more information on the Futures Forum, including a calendar of meetings sites around the country, visit the EPA web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/sdwa25/futures.html>.

Stormwater Controls

EPA has issued National Pollution Discharge Elimination System regulations governing storm water pollution within large cities. Next month (October), it will expand the program to cover communities with less than 100,000 population.

A report by National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) said many of those smaller communities believe effective storm water pollution prevention strategies are too costly, but the report shows otherwise.

The study cited more than 150 pollution prevention programs the larger cities have used to comply with the EPA rules, plus some voluntary programs implemented by smaller towns.

NRDC said, “The case studies provide convincing evidence that urban runoff pollution can be prevented and that the most effective responses come from preventative, enforceable efforts that

integrate all levels of government, design professionals from multiple disciplines, private organizations, and local citizens.”

The study said that programs aimed at preventing pollution are the most effective and cheapest. It said the hallmarks of good storm water management programs are efficient administration, fiscal incentives, regular monitoring and consistent enforcement.

Robopump

Drivers won’t need to get out of their cars at filling stations if Autofill of Stockholm has its way. The firm has devised a petrol pump with an optical sensor, like a video camera, that forms an image of the positions of the car’s fuel tank flap. This image is used to control the movement of a robot arm which moves over to pen the flap, unscrews the petrol cap and pushes a fuel nozzle into the tank. When the tank is full, back pressure shuts down the fuel supply and the robot arm runs through its previous sequence in reverse, to replace the cap and close the flap. (NewScientist Feb 99)

Brownfields

Brownfields' 99---Alliances for 21st Century Livability, Environmental Challenges and Solutions is being held December 6-8, 1999, in Dallas, Texas.

Brownfields redevelopment involves the cleanup and reuse of contaminated properties. This no cost conference, being sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and others, will provide discussions, opportunities for networking, and a forum that will help beginners to veterans make deals that will change the face of America. Brownfields'99 will provide an opportunity to pull stakeholders together in one place. Federal, state, and local government officials; realtors; investors; nonprofits and foundations; insurers; business leaders; environmental consultants; educational leaders; lawyers; lenders; high tech businesses and contractors; tribal officials and workforce development specialists are welcome as are others interested in the cleanup and redevelopment of Brownfields properties.

For further information, visit EPA's website at:

<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/> or call the Brownfields '99 toll free hotline at 1-877-343-5374.

MAP

The Midwest Assistance Organization Inc., has created a helpful "Small Water System Guide to Developing a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)," which includes directions and worksheets, as well as appendices and conversion tables for contaminants that will help you write your CCR.

MAP's guide, written by Jeff McCleary, manager for Program of Shared Operation and Management, is well laid out and easy to understand. MAP, which annually assists more than 350 communities, provides technical assistance and training on water, wastewater, solid waste and community development issues to small, rural communities in nine states: Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

MAP's CCR Guide is available in three formats, two of which are listed. For a free copy on disk, contact MAP at 800/822-2981 or write to Kenneth Bruzelius, MAP executive director, P.O. Box 81, New Prague, MN 56071. The guide is also available online free at: <http://www.map-inc.org/home.htm>.

25th Anniversary

In celebration of the Safe Drinking Water Act's (SDWA) EPA and water industry partners have developed a Web site where the public can learn more about this important legislation. The SDWA, passed in 1974, has immeasurably improved the quality of our country's drinking water. With reauthorizations in 1986 and 1996, the SDWA has evolved to face the challenges of ensuring a safe water supply in the future.

The Web site contains information about SDWA history and upcoming water industry events, as well as educational materials. Some parts of the site are under construction; however much information is available.

A Drinking Water Futures Forum included on the site offers participants the opportunity to discuss how to ensure safe drinking water 25 years from now. This general question leads to further subjects, such as treatment technologies, small systems, costs, industry infrastructure, vulnerable populations, source water protection, and current research.

"Our overall SDWA 25 theme is *Protect Our Health From Source To Tap*," Cara Lalley with EPA said. "The meetings that are listed on the calendar of events of the SDWA 25th Anniversary page are those being held by us and our SDWA 25 partners during this year. Several of them are regular/annual meetings, but this year we are including the Futures Forum discussion on one of seven questions that are considered 'hot drinking water topics' for the future.

"The bulletin board/discussion panel on the Web site is meant to supplement the results of the individual questions forums," she continued. "The results of all these discussions will then be compiled and presented at a final SDWA 25 celebration in December."

An Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA) information kit is included on the Web Site. The kit answers questions about drinking water and the SDWA through a series of fact sheets for the public and the media. The site may be reached at:

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/sdwa25> or by clicking on the SDWA logo within the EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/OGWDW/>.

(On Tap Summer 1999 Volume 8 Issue 2)

Drinking Water Protection(Repeat)

A publication entitled "Protecting Sources of Drinking Water: Selected Case Studies in Watershed Management" is now available. In this document, 17 drinking water suppliers share their insights on watershed management. The case studies detail their experience with watershed assessment, public outreach, working with local and state governments, local partnering, and land acquisition. This document is available on the internet at:

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/swp/cstudy.html>

The wetlands contacts for each state in Region 10 are: **AK** - Mark Jen 907/271-3411, **ID** - John Olson 208/378-5756, **OR** - Yvonne Vallette 503/326-2716, **WA** - Richard Clark 360/753-8072.

New Publication

Beginning in the year 2000, the National Small flows Clearinghouse (NSFC) will combine its two publications, the *Small Flows* newsletter and *The Small Flows Journal*, into one new magazine-style publication, the *Small Flows Magazine*. The new magazine will continue to focus on small community wastewater issues and technologies. It will include the same quality peer-reviewed technical articles currently published in *The Small Flows Journal*, as well as the news, feature articles, and product information readers have come to expect from the *Small Flows* newsletter.

The new format will benefit readers by making the peer-reviewed technical articles available to a much wider audience. The magazine will be free to U.S. subscribers, and the mailing lists of the two current publications will be combined, increasing readership for the journal articles by as much as 43,000. The frequency of publication for the peer-reviewed articles also will increase from annually to quarterly.

In addition, the magazine's new design and format will make the articles more visually appealing, inviting, and accessible to the public. The new format is in keeping with the NSFC's mission to provide free and low-cost wastewater information to the residents and officials in small communities and rural areas who need it most.

The NSFC is a nonprofit organization located at West Virginia University and funded by EPA. To order a subscription to the new magazine, contact the NSFC at 800/624-8301 or 304/293-4191 (current subscribers to *Small Flows* and *The Small Flows Journal* automatically will receive subscriptions to the magazine).

Web Site

<http://www.discoveryschool.com/schrockguide/business/grants.html>

This site is part of the discovery channel, focusing on teaching through cable access. This site is a link to other grant sources that can assist in funding innovative teaching ideas, or continue reinforcement of on-going practices. The home page Discovery.com is an excellent place to find exciting and new classroom projects.
